

## **Habitat Plan for Lower St. Louis River**

### **Restoration Plan Database: Crystal Reports of Individual Plan Summaries**

#### **I. BASIC PLAN DATA**

**Plan name:**

Habitat Plan for Lower St. Louis River

**Brief description of plan:**

In 1978, the lower St. Louis River was designated by the International Joint Commission as one of 43 Areas of Concern (AOC). A Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was developed and one of its recommendations was the creation of this plan. The plan focuses on the lower 21 miles of the river, a 12,000 acre freshwater estuary from below the Fon du Lac, MN to its outlet in Lake Superior. The plan is still in its drafting stages.

**Region the plan is located within:**

Great Lakes Region

**Watershed(s) included within the plan:**

L013x

**Area plan covers (in square miles):**

19.00 square miles

**Plan scale:**

Multi-state

**Plan's lead organization(s):**

St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee

**Plan's Main Contact Information:**

10/17/2004

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**On-line version of plan:**

**Date of original plan:**

11/2001

## **II. TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

**Plan includes restoration goals:** Y

**Level of detail of the goals:**

G

**Summary of the goals:**

(Please note that this plan is still in its planning stages.) Inventory and analyze land cover and habitats for restoration, acquisition and other protection measures. Restore shallow wetlands. Protect critical remaining natural and wild areas. Restore hardened shorelines and inactive boat slips to natural habitats. Remove contaminants and restore cleaned up sites. Improve management and regulation of recreational trails and motor vehicle impacts on public and private lands and waters.

**Plan recommends restoration of specific project sites:**

N

**Plan includes a discussion of funding sources:**

N

**Plan addresses long-term protection of restored sites:**

N

**Partners included in developing the plan:**

Federal  
State  
Local  
Tribes  
Business/Industry  
Non-profit Organizations  
Academia

**Type(s) of public outreach included during plan development:**

Held public workshops, meetings, open house, or scoping meetings  
Held focus groups  
Kept a contact list of interested parties  
Mailed or e-mailed information to a contact list  
Distributed brochures or other materials  
Conducted surveys  
Formed an advisory group(s)  
Involved the media through news releases, public service announcements, etc.  
Was subject to a public comment period  
Information not available

**Plan includes public outreach as part of plan implementation (e.g. annual public meeting, local group participation):**

Y

**Plan discusses the application of innovative approaches to restoration:**

N

**Plan make use of GIS mapping capabilities:**

Y

**Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for ecosystem level monitoring (baseline conditions) by:**

G

**Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for project level monitoring by:**

G

**The plan discusses or coordinates with other restoration plans covering the same geographic area:**

Y

**Other plan names:**

Port Comprehensive Plans for Superior and Duluth, LaMP for Lake Superior, RAP for St. Louis River, Duluth City-wide Comprehensive Plan

**Plan contains detailed information on historic and/or current habitat size, rate of loss, acres restored or protected, etc.):**

Y

**Summary of this habitat information:**

Prior to 1860, little development had taken place on the lower St. Louis River. By the 1880's, dredging of the harbor had been undertaken in a systematic fashion. The next quarter century saw both the Duluth and the Superior entries entirely reconstructed and the basins and channels in both Superior Bay and St. Louis Bay dredged into the basic contours they possess today. While some changes still occur every year as slips are filled or dredge material is stockpiled, the major dredging and shoreline reconstruction took place between 1870 and 1920. Since 1860, filling of the wetlands and open water areas has caused a loss of about 3000 acres of shallow wetland habitat and 4000 acres of the estuary have been dredged or deepened for navigation.